

SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 2, 2009

SWAC Members

Mark Glazer, Chair	Marcia Harrington	Craig Simoneau
David Frank, Vice Chair	Paula Jenson	Steve Sprague
Sara Ducey	Ed Lee	Ed Violette
Steve Findley	Lee Levine	
Odell Hall	Marcia Marks	

Absent: L. Alexander, S. Filocco, K. Osuch

County Staff

Angela Jordan, DSWS
Eileen Kao, DSWS
Alan Pultyniewicz, DSWS

Guests

Agustin Diaz, MCPS
Sean Gallagher, MCPS
Roy Higgins, MCPS
Hillary Kirchman, MCPS
Joseph Lavorgna, MCPS

The regular meeting of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) was called to order by the Chair at 7:30 p.m. on June 2, 2009, in the conference room at the Executive Office Building Lobby Level Auditorium.

The Chair welcomed everyone at the meeting and introductions were made.

OLD BUSINESS

Meeting Minutes – The minutes from May 9, 2009 were approved as submitted.

Subcommittee/Ad Hoc Group Reports – No reports were submitted.

Food Cost Analysis – This item will be tabled for now.

MAJOR PROGRAM TOPIC

Mr. Lavorgna gave a brief introduction of the strides MCPS have made with their recycling programs. He introduced Ms. Kirchman, the School Energy and Recycling Team (SERT) Program Manager. A video was shown highlighting the recycling efforts of Seneca Valley High School.

SERT Program – The program has been branded with the “magic triangle”, which represents the components MCPS deems essential for a successful recycling program. It is made up of three sides consisting of building staff, administration, and SERT leader students.

- Training is provided in quarterly and annual meetings to personnel. It is the chance to review responsibilities and develop strategies for success, including proper CFL disposal.
- Ms. Kirchman reported that “Synergy is Good” has become the new “catch phrase” for the SERT program.
- Each school has a SERT student leader, who will work with a team to be accountable for their school following recycling procedures. The OLO report found that the presence of a “champion” is the most significant factor to increase recycling rates, though students and building service managers are also important contributors. When procedures are followed correctly, the result is a high recycling rate, which can lead to cash rewards for their school.
- Each school’s SERT team make sure trash cans are in centralized stations and classrooms along side recycling bins.
- “The Flash” is a newsletter sent via email to principals, building services staff, and subscribers. It has been a great way to reach parents, so they are aware of the various recycling programs that are in effect at their child’s school. It is also available for viewing on the MCPS website as well.
- Energy conservation is a component of the program. Energy savings rebates are awarded to schools that lower their energy consumption.
- The results of the annual recycling infrastructure evaluation conducted by DSWs for each school are posted online on the MCPS website.
- A new program called “Give Me Ten” was created for schools to pledge to increase their recycling rates by 10 percent based on the rate recorded for the previous year.

Independent Programs/Awards – Some schools create their own programs and awards to promote and encourage recycling.

- Springbrook High School has an environmental scholarship, Green Jeopardy game, and recycling contests.
- Whetstone Elementary School has a program that involves positive reinforcement for students through the use of stickers.
- Seneca Valley High School produced a five minute video that featured special education teenagers. Their video will be included in a handbook that will be distributed throughout the County.
- Walt Whitman High School is involved with non-profit company Bethesda Green.

- Poster contests sponsored by DSWS are held annually.

MCPS Goals and Achievements - The recycling program started with a recycling rate of less than seven percent in 1998 and has increased to more than 36 percent through March 2009, according to MCPS. The 2008 recycling rate was 28 percent. The amount of refuse generated has decreased even though more schools have been opened. The Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) reported that a recycling rate of 36 percent for Montgomery Public Schools is realistic.

- 127 out of 130 schools increased their recycling rate by 16 percent or more.
 1. FY07 had 25 schools at a recycling rate of 36 percent or more
 2. FY08 had 96 schools at a recycling rate of 36 percent or more
- Mr. Lavorgna and MCPS are very proud of what they have accomplished. He also discussed the overall 36 percent goal for MCPS will eventually be increased to 40 percent or more.
- Over \$47,000 in recycling awards was awarded to schools from 2008 through 2009. To be eligible for an award, a school must have a recycling rate of 36 percent or more. There were no awards withheld during the aforementioned time period.

Waste Reduction – The volume of trash continues to decline each year with more recyclable materials being utilized.

- Milk cartons were a big problem in the waste stream, but now recyclable plastic bottles are used. MCPS anticipates that these new containers will help increase the recycling rate another 10 percent.
 1. A “drink ‘n drop” program was created as a partnership between milk bottlers/distributors and schools to encourage students to recycle. Bottlers provided special containers with drink ‘n drop signage to schools to help.

Polystyrene Food Tray Use – MCPS continues to use polystyrene lunch trays. In the past, vendors took the trays for recycling, but they are no longer available. Elementary schools will move to a recyclable #1 plastic container instead of aluminum trays, which will lead to a potential recovery of 30,000 lunch trays. This is one of the main focal points for MCPS for the upcoming school year.

Ms. Harrington commended the staff on everything MCPS has accomplished.

NEW BUSINESS

SWAC's Position on Bill 21-09 – The chair informed the committee that the original proposal made by Councilman George Leventhal has developed into a push to abolish DAFIG, rather than merge DAFIG with SWAC. The chair opened the floor for final discussion on the letter to be drafted to the Management & Fiscal Policy (MFP) Committee and its chair, Councilwoman Duchy Trachtenberg. It was agreed that the letter should be sent by SWAC alone in order to state its position. Ms. Kao added that the committee's perspective should be submitted in writing, so it is on record.

The consensus among the group was that the issues that DAFIG addresses are different than the one's SWAC must address, and having to take on those other additional issues would be difficult and would disrupt SWAC's ability to carry out functions to meet its mission, as well as alter their platform in being an advisory source for DSWS. Also, cost savings rationale that led to the creation of Bill 21-09 may not equate to as significant an amount as projected.

Dick Hill, the chair of DAFIG, testified on May 12, 2009 opposing the possible dissolution of his committee. They believe that the Site 2 Landfill plan will proceed and be in operation, if their board is repealed. DAFIG will likely lose the voice they gained, after its creation as a result of a past lawsuit.

The DSWS staff has no position on this issue.

The chair will meet to converse with Mr. Hill to get an understanding of what each side hopes to attain.

There was a motion made by Ms. Harrington for SWAC to empower the chair to draft a letter in time for the June 22nd meeting of the MFP committee regarding SWAC's opposition of a repeal of the Dickerson Area Facilities Implementation Group. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sprague. The motion passed.

Gazette Article - The Chair commended Ms. Kao, the Waste Reduction and Recycling Section Chief, on the strides that have been made for the County's recycling initiatives. The Gazette published an article on Montgomery County's growing recycling rate of 44.3 percent.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

ACRONYMS

CE	County Executive
DAFIG	Dickerson Area Facilities Implementation Group

DEP	Department of Environmental Protection
DSWS	Division of Solid Waste Services
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
MCPS	Montgomery County Public Schools
MES	Maryland Environmental Service
MFP	Management & Fiscal Policy
OLO	Office of Legislative Oversight
SERT	School Eco Response Team
SWAC	Solid Waste Advisory Committee

SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE														
2008 ATTENDANCE														
	J A N	F E B	M A R	A P R	M A Y	J U N	J U L	A U G	S E P	O C T	N O V	D E C	Absences In Last 12 Months	
Abralind, Jessica		X	X	X	X	X							-1	
Alexander, Leslie		X	X		X	X				X			-3	
Findley, Steve			X	X	X	X				X	X			
Frank, David	X	X	X	X		X				X	X		-1	
Glazer, Mark	X	X	X	X	X	X				X	X			
Guernica, Mimi	X	X	X	X	X	X				X	X			
Hall, Odell	X		X		X	X				X	X		-2	
Harrington, Marcia	X	X	X	X	X	X				X			-1	
Jenson, Paula		X	X	X	X	X				X	X			
Lee, Ed		X	X	X	X	X					X		-1	
Levine, Lee	X	X	X			X				X	X		-2	
Marks, Marcia	X	X			X	X				X	X		-2	
McCarty, Sean	X	X		X	X						X		-3	
Simoneau, Craig	X	X	X	X	X					X	X		-1	
Sprague, Steve		X	X	X	X	X				X	X			
Violette, Ed				X	X	X				X	X			

SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE														
2009 ATTENDANCE														
	J A N	F E B	M A R	A P R	M A Y	J U N	J U L	A U G	S E P	O C T	N O V	D E C	Absences In Last 12 Months	
Alexander, Leslie		X			X								-1	
Ducey, Sara					X	X							-1	
Findley, Steve	X	X	X			X							-1	
Filocco, Susan					X								-2	
Frank, David	X	X	X		X	X							-1	
Glazer, Mark	X	X	X		X	X								
Hall, Odell		X				X							-3	Feb/April '08 dropped off, still at 3 absences
Harrington, Marcia	X	X	X		X	X							-1	
Jenson, Paula		X	X		X	X							-1	
Lee, Ed	X	X	X			X							-2	
Levine, Lee	X	X	X			X							-2	April '08 dropped off
Marks, Marcia	X	X	X		X	X								April/May '08 dropped off
Osuch, Kurt			X		X								-1	
Simoneau, Craig	X	X	X			X							-2	
Sprague, Steve	X	X	X		X	X								
Violette, Ed	X	X	X		X	X								